(c) the progress of the steel plants which are under construction in these states?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) and (b) No, sir.

(c) No major steel plant in the state of Chhattisgarh is under construction. The progress status of steel plants under construction in the state of Orissa is given below:

S.No.	Plants	Progress Status
1.	Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd.	The construction of steel plant of M/s. Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd., is in progress. Total refurbishing of Blast Furnace structurals and 96% of civil works and Structural erections have been completed. 93% of lying refractories and 80% of erection of equipments of phase-I.
2.	Mideast Integrated Steel Ltd.	The first phase of the steel project comprising of pig ' iron plant has partly been commissioned. However, due to funds constraints, the construction of the plant has been stopped.

Autonomous body for Recycling of Scrap Steel

3004. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a new autonomous body to promote recycling of scrap steel, particularly those generated from ship breaking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated a strategy to provide funds to this organisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Renewal of the mining lease of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited

3005. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited has stopped mining operations from 25th July, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to renew the mining lease of the company; and

(d) the steps Government propose to rehabilitate the workforce numbering 2500 in the event of closure of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORETRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Limited (KIOCL) had to stop mining operations from 25.7.2001 on expiry of second work permit on 24.7.2001. The Ministry of Environment and Forests had recommended a three month's work permit to KIOCL w.e.f 25.7.2001. However, the State Government of Karnataka issued the notification only on 4th August, 2001 forcing KIOCL to stop work from 25.7.2001 to 3.8.2001. Mining operations by KIOCL have started since 4.8.2001.

(c) Ministry of Steel has already taken up the matter for long term renewal of mining lease of KIOCL with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the State Government of Karnataka.

(d) Such an eventuality (closure of KIOCL) is not foreseen at the present moment.